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HEREWITH HUE 175 DATED SEPT 4, 1966 SIGNED CORCORAN:

C O N F I D E N T I A L HUE 175

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III MAF PASS INFO 108 TO POLAD FRANCIS

REF: HUE'S 152

FROM COLEBAUGH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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1. CONTRAR TO EARLIER DECISION (REPORTED REFTEL) HUE CIT. CANDIDATES ON AUGUST 31 REQUESTED USE OF HUE MUNICIPAL THEATER (TRAN HUNG DAO) FOR ONE SHOT PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND SPEECH. SEPTEMBER 3 RALLY WAS HELD FROM 1000 TO 1130 HOURS. THEATER WELL GUARDED BY NATIONAL POLICE AND FIELD FORCE POLICE. APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PERSONS, MOSTLY CIVIL SERVANTS ATTENDED RALLY. PROVINCE CHIEF/MAYOR LT. COL. PHAM VAN KHOA, AND PROSECUTOR OF HUE COURT OF APPEALS, NGO KHANH THUC WERE ALSO PRESENT

2. AN INITIAL SPEECH WAS GIVEN BY A PROVINCE OFFICIAL CONCERNING

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REASONS FOR RALLY. THEN RALLY TURNED OVER TO CANDIDATE NGUYEN DAI BANG, WHO AS CHAIRMAN LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE INTRODUCED THE CANDIDATES. EACH CANDIDATE GIVEN TIME NEED TO MAKE SPEECH AND 15 MINUTES FOR QUESTIONS.

3. FIRST CANDIDATE TO SPEAK WAS NGUYEN MANH LIEN. HE FIRST READ FROM HIS ELECTION HANDBIL (TRANSLATION POUCHED) AND THEM COMPARED ARVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT. STATES PREFERENCE FOR PRESIDENTIAL FORM.

4. LIEN'S QUESTION PERIOD AS FOLLOWS:

QUESTION: ASKED TO STATE PAST ACTIVITIES WHICH HAD HELPED PEOPLE

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OF HUE.
ANSWER: SINCE HE WAS A COURT PROCESS SERVER HAD NOT HAD CHANCE TO DIRECTLY HELP PEOPLE, BUT HE HAS RECOGNIZED SUFFERINGS AND MISERIES OF PEOPLE AND WOULD LIKE TO SOLVE ALL INJUSTICES IF ELECTED.

QUESTION: IN HANDBILL STATED "ONLY AFTER YOWUHAVE EATEN TASTELESS FOOD CAN YOU LOVE CAT." ARE CATS BEING COMPARED TO HUE VOTERS?
ANSWER: FOLLOWING SENTENCE IN HANDBILL HAD EXPLAINED MEANING THAT "YOU ONLY LOVE THE PEOPLE WHEN YOU WERE OF THE PEOPLE."

QUESTION: IN HANDBILL MENTIONED THAT "CITIZEN'S GROUP" ARE

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AT THE BOTTOM OF TURMOILS. DOES THAT MEAN CITIZENS ARE ONES WHO ALWAYS DISRUPT NATION?
ANSWER: GAVE INAUDIBLE ANSWER, AND ENDED HIS 15 MINUTES.

5. SECOND CANDIDATE TO SPEAK WAS VO HUU THU. WHEN INTRODUCED THU WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AND APPLAUDED. HE TALKED ABOUT PRESENT SITUATION OF COUNTRY IN WHICH MUCH TURMOIL AND DISUNION. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO LACK OF POPULAR BASE FOR GOVERNMENT (APPLAUDED). AS FORMER MILITARY MAN HAD FOLLOWED ORDERS OF SUPERIORS SO HE HAD NO REVOLUTIONARY ACHIEVEMENTS. HOWEVER, HE DID BRING GOOD WILL TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES IN ORDER TO HELP THE PEOPLE AND TO HAVE A GOOD AND PEACEFUL LIFE. (APPLAUDED) IN CLOSING THU ASKED PEOPLE TO ACCEPT HIS CONTRIBUTION OR THE CONTRIBUTION OF ANY SINCERE CANDIDATE IN ORDER TO RECONSTRUCT THE NATION.

6. THU'S PERIOD AS FOLLOWS:

QUESTION: RELATE PAST ACTIVITIES. WHY HASN'T HE TOLD ABOUT PAST ACTIVITIES?
ANSWER: DURING PERIOD HE WORKED FOR ADMINISTRATION (OF PROVINCE) HE HAD REFORMED LIVING STANDARD OF PEOPLE--NOT GREATLY BUT A LITTLE. DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN, CANDIDATES USUALLY PRESENT PAST

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ACTIVITES TO ADVERTISE THEMSELVES. HE DID NOT BECAUSE DID NOT CONSIDER REVOLUTIONARY ACHIEVEMENTS--MERELY A PERSON DOING HIS JOB.

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QUESTION: DURING PRESENT DECISIVE PERIOD DURING FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISTS, WHY QUIT AS PROVINCE CHIEF AND WHY DISCHARGED FROM ARMY? ANSWER: DURING NEARLY 2 YEARS SERVED AS PROVINCE CHIEF, MET MANY PRESSURES--FROM INSIDE AS WELL AS OUTSIDE. DUE TO FACT HAD NO AUTHORITY DECIDED TO RESIGN AND BE NORMAL CITIZEN (APPLAUDED). IN ARMY TRANSFERRED TO A REGIMENT WITH POSITION OF INSPECTOR. COULD NOT DIRECTLY HELP PEOPLE OR SOLDIERS ON BATTLEFIELD SO ASKED FOR DISCHARGE IN ORDER EFFECTIVELY AND TRULY HELP PEOPLE (APPLAUDED). WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT CAUSE PRESSURES, BUT IN SOME AREAS LOCAL POLICY HAD MEANY DEFECTS. IT WAS AN INDIVIDUAL POLIY ONLY. (APPLAUDED)

QUESTION: WHEN A NATIVE OF QUANG NAM WHY RUNNING IN ELECTION IN HUE? ANSWER: IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES WOULD WORK FOR NATION, NOT STRUGGLE FOR RIGHTS OF ANY ONE LOCALITY. EVERY LOCALITY IS PART OF BELOVED LAND. (APPLAUDED)

QUESTION: WHAT SYSTEM IS MOST SUITABLE FOR COUNTRY UNDER PRESENT SITUATION?
ANSWER: MUST HAVE PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM BUT MUST BE CHANGED A

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LOT (IE, FROMTIME OF DIEM). MUST BE ABSOLUTE SEPARATION OF POWERS TO PREVENT A DICTATORSHIP.

QUESTION: WHAT IS VIEW TOWARDS PRESENT SITUATION AND POLICY (OF GOVERNMENT)?
ANSWER: AS IS KNOWN FROM NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO, NATIONAL LEADERS AND WAR CABINET HAVE PROMISED END OF MILITARY REGIME AND REPLACEMENT BY CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. END OF WAR, CABINET WOULD REPRESENT GREAT PROGRESS AS MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE NO LEGAL BASIS FOR GOVERNING (WARMLY APPLAUDED).

7. THIRD CANDIDATE TO SPEAK WAS NGUYEN DAI BANG. TALKED FOR APPROX FIVE MINUTES COVERING SUBJECTS IN HAND BILL (TRANSLATION POUCHED).

8. BANG QUISTION PERIOD AS FOLLOWS:

QUESTION: SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING MEANING OF SENTENCE ON POSTERS AND HANDBILLS "HUE PEOPLE VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HUE." SENTENCE APPEARED TO BE AIMED AT DISUNION. ASKED BANG TO EXPLAIN WHETHER SENTENCE HAD CONSTRUCTIVE OR DISRUPTIVE SPIRIT--SINCE COUNTRY HAD ALREADY SUFFERED TOO MUCH DISUNION.

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ANSWER: SAIG "LEGITIMATE SPIRIT OF HUE IS A UNITED SPIRIT." (AVOIDED REALLY ANSWERING QUESTION.)

QUESTION: WOULD HE HELP YOUTHS AND STUDENTS IF ELECTED.
ANSWER: SAID WOULD DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR YOUTHS

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AND STUDENTS.

QUESTION: ASKED OPINION ABOUT BUDDHIST BOYCOTT OF ELECTIONS?

BANG IGNORED QUESTION AND THEN CLOSED SESSION BECAUSE HIS 15 MINUTES HAD EXPIRED.

9. COMMENT: THIS CLEARLY HIGHLIGT OF HUE CAMPAIGN SO FAR. BANG MENTIONED TO AUDIENCE WHILE MODERTING THAT CANDIDATES WOULD CONTINUE ACTIVELY MEETING VOTERS UNTIL ELECTION DAY. RELIABLE CONSULATE SOURCE IN ATTENDANCE REPORTED THU CLEARLY STOLE THE SHOW. LIEN AND BANG BOTH HAVE UNPLEASANT, WEAK SPEAKING VOICES AND DURING SPEECHES PEOPLE HEARD MUTTERING "ENOUGH", "SIT DOWN", "TOO WEAK," "TOO OLD" OR "TOO YOUNG". NEITHER RECEIVED ANY APPLAUSE. THU ON OTHER HAND RECEIVED REPEATED APPLAUSE--PERTICULARLY IN HIS COMMENTS REFERRING TO PRESSURES FROM INSIDE WHILE PROVINCE CHIEF. THIS WAS CLEAR SLAP AT EX-LT. GEN. NGUYEN CHANH THI WHO REMOVED HIM. APPARENTLY THU HAD QUESTIONS PLANTED IN AUDIENCE SO HE COULD ANSWERCERTAIN QUESTIONS RAISED AS WHY HE WAS RUNNING IN HUE AND REGARDING HIS DISCHARGE FROM ARMY. THU SEEMS CLEARLY TO BE FRONT RUNNER AND DEMONSTRATED HE IS FROM A DIFFERENT LEAGUE AS A CAMPAIGNER THAN EITHER OF OTHER CANDIDATES.

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